

ABSTRACT

A Stirling engine assembly (1) comprising a Stirling engine (4) having a head (8). A burner (7) surrounds the head and comprises a burner element on which a flame is sustained. The burner is fed with a combustible gas stream. A recuperator (20) preheats the gas stream with combustion products from the burner. A coolant circuit (32) is positioned to absorb heat, which is radiated from the back of the burner element away from the head, into a coolant stream separate from the gas stream.